COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Army Announces Revisions In Bronze Arrowhead Awards

Department of the Army has spelled out new criteria for award of the Bronze Arrowhead for combat operations. Award of this ribbon device may be made to members of the Army who, in the combat zone of a battle or campaign established by the Department of the Army:

a. Make a parachute jump into enemy-held territory as a member of an organized force carrying out an assigned tactical mission, or

b. Participate in the assault waves of an amphibious landing on enemy-held territory, or

c. Make a helicopter landing in enemy-held territory as a member of an organized force carrying out an assigned tactical mission.

The assault operation must be of such scope as to warrant Department of Army designation as a battle or campaign and be of such magnitude as to include tactical elements of at least one other service.

The senior Army commander in each theater of operations is authorized to award the Bronze Arrowhead to units under his command which are included in the above criteria. Department of the Army officials point out that stringent recommendations spelled out in new changes to AR 672-5-1 are intended for major assault operations and that the Bronze Arrowhead will not be awarded for small-scale, short-range operations.

Normally, in a major conflict, the Army commander in each theater of operations has the authority to award the Arrowhead. However, for the present, all awards of the Bronze Arrowhead will be retained at the Department of the Army.

SecDef Departs on Vietnam Tour

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara left Washington July 5 from Andrews Air Force Base for one of his periodic trips to Vietnam to review all aspects of the war. Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach accompanied Mr. McNamara.

Other Department of Defense officials making the trip included Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler; Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) John T. McNaughton; Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) Phil G. Goulding and the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, Paul C. Warnke.

COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE—Gen. William C. Westmoreland (left), Commander, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and Maj. Gen. George G. O'Connor, Commander, 9th Infantry Division, discuss results of a bitter three-day battle fought by the 2nd Brigade in Long An Province as they leave the USS Benewah. More than 200 of the enemy were killed in the engagement.

Wives Can Get Reduced Air Fares To Visit Husbands on Hawaii R&R

Wives of military personnel planning to visit their husbands in Hawaii during R&R trips may take advantage of new reduced air fares.

The discount of approximately 25 per cent is on economy (tourist) class tickets from the West Coast to Hawaii. Cost of the round-trip tickets is $165.

Each member in Vietnam who desires to have his wife take advantage of the fare reduction must send her a copy of his standard R&R order, overprinted on the bottom or reverse side with DD Form 1580. The wife must present this form at the time she makes reservation.

The overprinted forms are authorized to be reproduced locally.

The reduced rates apply only to wives, not parents or dependent children, of men in Vietnam for round-trip tickets which are good for only 15 days from the time of departure until time of return.

Airlines offering the discount fares are Pan American, United and Northwest. Flights depart from Seattle-Tacoma, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Washington Memos

NAVY RADM. THOMAS B. Owen has assumed command as Chief of Naval Research, succeeding RAdm. John K. Leydon, who retired from military service. Adm. Owen came to his new post from Director of Naval Research Laboratory.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS Command officially assumed command of Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., on July 1. Since Aug. 1, 1962, command of post was held by Army Test and Evaluation Command's Electronic Proving Ground, an element of Army Materiel Command.

MILITARY TRAFFIC Management and Terminal Service has announced expansion of Short Form U.S. Government Bill of Lading to include small military shipments of freight forwarders by air, motor and rail carriers. Maj. Gen. John J. Lane, MTMTS Commander, said new form will simplify much of paper work on small shipments.

BRITISH WING COMMANDER Roy M. Jenkins, on exchange duty with U.S. Air Force at Scott AFB, Ill., has earned Military Airlift Command flying safety award for completing 10,000 flying hours without accident. Wing Commander Jenkins was first exchange officer from RAF to earn this award.

INSTRUMENT SYSTEMS modifier Earl R. Lannum, employed by Air Force Systems Command's Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, Calif., has been recognized for a design and fabrication of device which will cut checkout time on radar magazines in F-111 aircraft from six manhours to two minutes, saving Air Force more than $400,000 annually. Lannum was awarded $1,460 and received special recognition from Civil Service Commission for idea.

FIRST CONTINGENT of new Air Force 0-2 air reconnaissance aircraft has arrived in Vietnam. To be used for air controller and psychological warfare missions, 0-2s will augment single-engine 0-1 Birddog now in use, and provide twin-engine reliability.

COMMAND OF WESTERN Sea Frontier has been assumed by RAdm. William H. Groverman. Adm. Groverman, former Director, Antisubmarine Warfare and Surveillance Division, Chief of Naval Operations, replaced RAdm. John McNay Taylor, who retired June 30.

RESCUE PERSONNEL assigned to two Aerospace Rescue and Recovery units in RVN—Detachment 7 of 38th ARRS and 37th ARRS—have been credited with rescue of 19 persons during May.

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has awarded $8.9 million contract for 141 TH-13 helicopter basic instrument trainers to Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex. Contract includes engineering data, electrical-electronic data, publications and provisioning requirements.

COMPUTER DESIGNED to expedite Air Force Communications Service command and management decisions will be installed in Command Post, AFCS Headquarters, Scott AFB, Ill. Computer will be interconnected with integrated Command Control System, a memory bank containing essential information of Headquarters Air Force, Washington, D. C.; Air Defense Command, Tactical Air Command, Military Airlift Command, Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

AIR FORCE Col. Geoffrey Cheadle has been named Director of Information, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews AFB, Md., succeeding Col. Leonard W. Lilley who retired July 1. A graduate of National War College in June, Col. Cheadle previously served as Chief of Requirements Plans Group, Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development, Air Force Headquarters.

NASA'S MARSHALL SPACE Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., has ordered 60 additional H-1 rocket engines from Rocketdyne Division of North American Aviation for use in Apollo Applications program. Estimated cost of 60 engines is $14.8 million.

COAST GUARD RADM. Albert J. Carpenter is new commander of Coast Guard's Eastern Area and Third District. He relieved RAdm. James A. Alger Jr., who retired. RAdm. Carpenter reported to new post from Long Beach, Calif., where he served as Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District.

DESTROYER TENDER USS Samuel Gompers was commissioned July 1 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Wash. Ship is 644 feet long and displaces 20,500 tons fully loaded. It will carry a crew of 135 officers and 1,668 enlisted men.

CDR. MARK M. MACOMBER, Navy's only commissioned officer holding doctorate in Geodetic Science, has been named Deputy Commander for Hydrography, Naval Oceanographic Office, Suitland, Md. Cdr. Macomber replaces retiring Capt. Victor A. Moitoret, who was elected Director of International Hydrographic Bureau in Monoco and will leave for that assignment following retirement from Navy.

CENTRALIZED OVERSEAS assignments for NCOs are being expanded by Air Force and are expected to include staff sergeants next year. Further modifications to computer system at the Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex., are designed for management of total NCO resources.

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Army Chief of Staff Orders Study of Transportation

Army's Chief of Staff has directed a special study to determine how the transportation function should be accomplished within the Army and where it should be located.

At present there is no single office that the Chief of Staff can hold responsible for assuring that the Army's overall requirements for transportation are met. The study directive includes five major points and is directed to be completed and submitted by Nov. 30.

Title of the directed study will be "The Transportation Function Within the Army (TRANSARM)." Members of the study group will be furnished by the Army Staff and major commands.

Army spokesmen said the objective of the study is to develop the best means of providing transportation to the Army. Since strategic and logistic transportation means are not organic to the Army, the study will not be limited to the Army but will examine areas outside the Army which affect Army transportation. This will include contact with the Office, Secretary of Defense; Joint Chiefs of Staff; transportation managers; the Department of Transportation and the transportation industry. Within the Army, the transportation function will be examined from the company level through Headquarters, Department of the Army.

Defense Begins Project to Smooth Military-to-Civilian Job Transition

The Department of Defense is developing a new training program designed to give military personnel who have nearly completed active duty a chance to improve their civilian job potential.

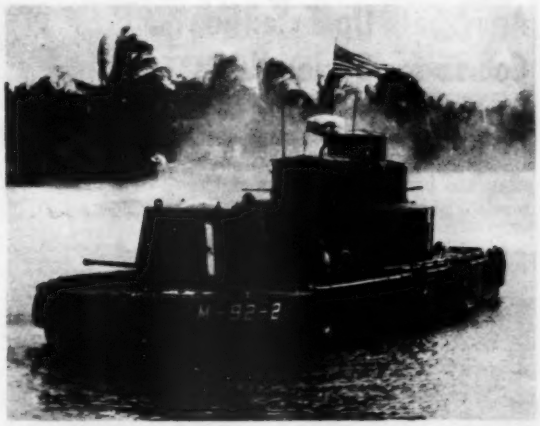
Project Transition was established by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to carry out President Johnson's desire to create a smoother transition from military service to civilian careers.

The project will be initially directed toward those who have from one to six months of remaining service.

Priority in the program will be given to enlisted personnel who entered the service with no civilian job experience and did not acquire a civilian-related skill while in service.

Participation in the program will be on a voluntary basis. Personnel may take training after duty hours or during duty hours if the local command can release them from duty.

A pilot program has been established at Ft. Knox, Ky., to study skill courses and educational programs that would be required.



FIRE MISSION—One of the Riverine Force's "Monitors" fires 40mm shells into an enemy position during a recent operation in the Mekong Delta. Monitors such as this one participated heavily in a recent combined River Assault Force battle against a large enemy force along the Rach Nui River south of Saigon.

Army, Navy Join Forces In 'Mobile Riverine' Unit

The Army and Navy have combined forces in Vietnam to form a unique self-contained mobile waterborne team able to penetrate deep into Mekong Delta or Rung Sat Special Zone.

Named the Mobile Riverine Force, the interservice team is made up of two battalions from the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade and the Navy's Task Force 117.

Commanded by Capt. Wade C. Wells, the Navy Task Force provides afloat transportation for the infantrymen commanded by Col. William B. Fulton. Ranging from large "barracks" ships to small speedy assault craft, the Navy's small fleet is capable of penetrating areas difficult or impossible to reach by land or air.

Although unique in the Vietnam conflict, the river assault concept isn't anything particularly new with U.S. forces. In 1861 federal troops stationed in Cairo, Ill., were provided with Naval river support units for planned campaigns against the confederates during the Civil War.

The fleet is comprised of two 3800-ton barracks ships housing 1100 men, a sick bay—complete with treatment and X-ray rooms, dental office, laboratories, and an operating room—laundry, library, cobbler and tailor shops; 56-foot Navy Armored Troop Carriers; plastic assault boats; several 60-foot "Moniters;" resupply craft; repair boats and 60-foot command and control ships which provide a mobile base for commanders during operations.

Army Sets Up Extension Course for Senior NCOs

Army has developed an extension course designed to increase the senior NCO's professional military knowledge and improve his career and promotion potential.

The course will be conducted by the Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The extension course consists of 224 credit hours of study and includes such subjects as principles of organization and management, command and general staff operations, and command and leadership.

Qualified senior NCOs in the National Guard and Army Reserve, as well as the active Army, are eligible for the course.

The prerequisites for enrolling in the course include successful completion of the Basic Senior NCO Career Development Course as well as a demonstrated outstanding potential for assignment to a position as sergeant major or operations sergeant on the headquarters staff of a general officer.

The career development course is conducted at NCO Academies.

Computerized Message Center Under Development for Navy

A computer system which will automatically accept, route and send messages will soon be built for the Navy Communications Centers.

The system is called NABPARS, which stands for Naval Automatic Broadcast Processing and Routing Switch. It will be capable of operating 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

NABPARS is expected to greatly reduce the time needed for many operations. For example, the two hours now required to recall a message for retransmittal will be cut to about five minutes.

The system is expected to be operational by 1969.

FINAL COMBAT MISSION — Air Force Maj. Charles M. Healy Jr., is congratulated by Col. Woodard E. Davis, Commander, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, after completing his 160th and final combat mission from Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN. Maj. Healy logged 1500 hours in the F-4C Phantom fighter with the flight. The F-4C duty for the major began in 1963 when he was assigned as an instructor in the new fighter at MacDill AFB, Fla.

AF Updates Closing Date Of Olmsted AFB, Pa.

Air Force has announced the closing of Olmsted AFB, Pa., by June 1968, one year earlier than was originally planned. The desires of local, state and industrial officials to convert the base to civilian use as soon as possible resulted in the decision to close the base ahead of schedule.

Title to 177 acres of the base has been transferred to Penn State University. Total evacuation of this area in the northern part of the base will, according to the Air Force, be completed by July 1, 1967. The airfield portion of the base will be converted to civilian use as a jet airport by the same date.

Phase-out of the remaining Air Force activities at Olmsted is programmed for completion by June 30, 1968.

Navy Announces Dates Of Vietnam Campaigns

The Secretary of the Navy has announced campaign periods for Navy operations in Vietnam.

They are: Vietnam Advisory Campaign from March 15, 1962 to March 7, 1965; Vietnam Defense Campaign from March 8, 1965 to December 24, 1965; Vietnamese Counter-offensive Campaign from December 25, 1965 to June 30, 1966 and a fourth campaign, as yet not named, from July 1, 1966 to a date to be announced later.

Eligible Navymen are authorized to wear a bronze star 3/16" in diameter on the suspension ribbon and ribbon bar of the Vietnam Service Medal for each campaign.

Air Force Selects Four More MOL Pilots

The Air Force has selected four more pilots for the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program.

Selected were: Lt. Col. Robert T. Herres, 34; Maj. James A. Abrahamson, 34; Maj. Donald H. Peterson, 33 and Maj. Robert H. Lawrence, 31. Maj. Lawrence is the first Negro selected for the program.

The pilots are now attending the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards AFB, Calif. Later they will join 12 pilots— eight Air Force, three Navy and one Marine—already assigned to the program.

The MOL program is designed to obtain knowledge about manned space flight and determine how it relates to defense requirements. It is the only Department of Defense manned space program.

Two-man MOL crews will be launched in a Gemini B spacecraft. In orbit they will transfer to a laboratory. The crew will remain in the laboratory for 30 days conducting experiments.

They will re-enter the Gemini B for return to earth and an ocean landing and recovery.

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